

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/519,075

Examiner

Kevin Quarterman

Applicant(s)

NUNOME ET AL.

Art Unit

2879

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 25 April 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,5-9 and 11-15.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment and remarks received on 25 April 2007 have been entered.

Drawings

2. The replacement-drawings were received on 25 April 2007. These drawings are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1, 5-9, and 11-15 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Regarding independent claim 1, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a spark plug comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, at least one of a center electrode and a side electrode including a precious metal member containing Ir as a main component, 6.5 mass% to 22 mass% of Rh, 5.2 mass% of Ru, and 0.4 mass% to 3.5 mass% of Ni. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 1, claims 5-8 are also allowable.
5. Regarding independent claim 9, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a spark plug comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, at least one of a center electrode and a side electrode including a precious metal member containing Ir as a main component, Ru in a range of from 8 mass% to 20 mass%, Ni in an amount not smaller than 0.4 mass% and smaller than the mass% of Ru contained in the

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precious metal member, and Rh. Due to their dependency upon independent claim 9, claims 12-14 are also allowable.

6. Regarding independent claim 11, the prior art of record neither shows or suggests a spark plug comprising, in addition to other limitations of the claim, at least one of a center electrode and a side electrode including a precious metal containing Ir as a main component, Ru in a range of from 8 mass% to 20 mass%, Rh in an amount not smaller than 0.3 mass% and not larger than a content of Ru contained in the precious metal member, and Ni. Due to its dependency upon independent claim 11, claim 15 is also allowable.

7. The subject precious metal member described earlier is provided for improving resistance to spark abrasion of the discharge portion. The design is new and unique to the art.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Contact Information


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kevin Quarterman whose telephone number is (571) 272-2461. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH (7-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nimesh Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2457. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kevin Quarterman
Examiner
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kq 
12 June 2007


JOSEPH WILLIAMS
PRIMARY EXAMINER